



Washington State Department of Agriculture ➔ Endangered Species Program Newsletter

Subcommittee reviews ESA surface water monitoring plans

A subcommittee of the Pesticide Advisory Board met in Olympia March 4 to review the surface water monitoring program proposed by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA).

WSDA presented the process used to select watersheds where surface water monitoring activities may occur. Proposed sampling sites were identified and the rationale for choosing sampling sites was described. One agricultural basin and one urban basin are recommended for consideration in the surface water monitoring program. WSDA also discussed the relationship of the pesticide analysis schedules to the cropping profiles in each watershed.

The subcommittee provided WSDA with technical feedback for completing the selection process for sampling sites and pesticide analysis schedules. The subcommittee was supportive of the department's monitoring plans and looks forward to providing continued input into the process.

WSDA plans to present the final site selection, proposed analytical schedules and the Quality Assurance Project Plan at the next subcommittee meeting in Yakima April 1. For additional information on the April 1 meeting, please contact Jim Cowles at (360) 902-2066 or send an e-mail to esp@agr.wa.gov. ➔

WSDA provides comments on ESA-related Federal Register Notices

WSDA provided comments to EPA on two notices filed in the Federal Register. The comments may be found under "Hot Topics" on the Endangered Species Program Web site at wa.gov/agr/PestFert/EnvResources/EndangSpecies.htm.

The first notice asked for comments on the proposed field implementation of EPA's Endangered Species Protection Program. The notice appeared in the Dec. 2, 2002 Federal Register: Volume 67, Number 231; Page 71549-71561. This may be found on the Internet at epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2002/December/Day-02/p30463.htm.

The second notice asked for comments on ways that the ESA consultation process can be made more effective and efficient with respect to pesticide registration actions that may have effects on listed threatened or endangered species.

EPA reopened the public comment period for this notice. The new comment period will end on March 25, 2003. The notice initially appeared in the Jan. 24, 2003 Federal Register: Volume 68, Number 16; Page 3785-3795. This may be found on the Internet at epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2003/January/Day-24/p1661.htm. ➔



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QUESTIONS?

For more information about the Endangered Species Program, visit our Web site at agr.wa.gov/PestFert/EnvResources/EndangSpecies.htm

WSDA welcomes your input. Please send your comments and questions to the Endangered Species Program esp@agr.wa.gov

Awareness

Action

Recovery

WSDA gets EPA feedback on proposed state-initiated plan

In January, WSDA asked EPA for a meeting to discuss and evaluate the state-initiated plan for protection of listed threatened and endangered species Washington.

EPA responded positively. The agency recognized the importance of site-specific data in the assessment process as well as WSDA's ability to interact with local pesticide users for input in addressing endangered species concerns. EPA believes Washington state data collection is a key component for the mutual efforts of EPA and WSDA to protect threatened and endangered species.

Finally, EPA invited WSDA to meet again to further discuss the elements of a state initiated plan. For more detail on EPA's response to WSDA, visit "Hot Topics" on the Web site at wa.gov/agr/PestFert/EnvResources/EndangSpecies.htm.

WSDA will meet with EPA in Washington, D.C. March 20-21 to present the process it proposes to use to formalize a state-initiated plan. Key topics for discussion are the specific elements EPA will require from the state and EPA's anticipated timeline for the approval process. WSDA will also propose a formal process for providing state-specific data for EPA's ongoing consultations with NOAA Fisheries. The consultations are a result of a July 2002 court decision that found EPA in violation of its ESA obligations.

See the Feb. 7 issue of [Pesticide ESA News](#) for information about the state-initiated plan. ➔

Fish Facts: Chum Salmon

Chum Salmon, sometimes referred to as Dog Salmon, may grow to more than 3 feet in length and weigh up to 35 pounds. This streamlined fish has a steel-blue back with silvery sides. The back, upper sides and fins have fine black speckles while the anal and pelvic fins are white-tipped. The sides of spawning adults are brownish red with greenish bars or mottling. These markings often resemble paint that has run.

Chum Salmon are on the U.S. Endangered Species List. Naturally spawned populations in the Columbia River drainage and naturally spawned summer-run populations in the Hood Canal and its tributaries and in Olympic Peninsula rivers between Hood Canal and Dungeness Bay are classified as threatened in Oregon and Washington. The Columbia River catch of Chum Salmon declined from 700,000 fish in 1928 to 10,000 fish in the 1950s. Habitat destruction, the building of hydroelectric dams on migratory rivers, over-fishing, and competition with introduced fish are the main threats to the salmon of the Pacific Northwest.

Chum Salmon inhabit the Pacific and Arctic Oceans from Japan to Alaska and south to California and coastal streams south to the Sacramento River in California.



Chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*)
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The Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife and e-nature.com contributed to this article.